

'I'M SCARED'

The loneliness of death in the time of coronavirus

Being forbidden from dying dad's bedside 'broke my heart into a million pieces'



Stacey Silva holds a photo of her father, Gary Young, in Gilroy on Thursday. Young, who started showing symptoms of the coronavirus on March 3, died Tuesday with no family members at his bedside.

By Julia Prodis Sulek
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GILROY » When her mother took her last breath and died of cancer 10 months ago, Stacey Silva, her father and brother all surrounded her hospital bed, holding her hands and whispering in her ear, "We will never forget you."

As her father, Gary Young, died of the coronavirus in an isolation ward on Tuesday, Stacey stood in the intensive care unit hallway, behind two sets of glass doors, and watched as the medical team in blue protective gear and

INSIDE

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plastic face shields finally turned off the heart monitor.

"It broke my heart into a million pieces. I didn't want him to feel alone. I didn't want him to know we could do that for my mom and not for him," Sta-

cey said Thursday. "He was so lonely, and I didn't want him to feel lonely at that time. But there was nothing I could do."

This is what death looks like in the time of coronavirus. At life's most tragic and intimate moments, family is banned from bedsides and patients die alone. Relatives across the country don't fly in. Funerals are postponed. Hugs are for later.

Gary Young went to the emergency room at St. Louise Hospital with a bad cough and a horrible headache. He

ALONE » PAGE 5

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Shelter at home ordered statewide

Worst-case projections — 56% infected in 8 weeks; 3 Bay Area senior facilities report cases

By Maggie Angst and Emily DeRuy
Staff writers

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday issued a statewide shelter-in-place order for all Californians amid a grim projection that 56% of Californians — 25.5 million people — could be infected with coronavirus in eight weeks if no efforts are made to control the spread of the disease.

"It is time for all of us to recognize we need to do more to meet this moment," said Newsom, who has also asked the federal government for more than \$1 billion to help California fight the outbreak.

Newsom acknowledged in an address that his projections assume the state makes no efforts to control the spread of the disease, when in fact his new stay-at-home order includes significant actions, such as banning assemblies and closing many businesses, that he predicted will "bend the curve." Experts said the projection outlines a worst-case scenario.

The statewide shelter-in-place order comes three days after millions of Bay Area residents were ordered to stay home by county public health officers; Newsom said the new rules for the state are very similar to those here.

The governor's announcements came on a tense day for the Bay Area, as three senior-living facilities reported that residents or staff-

INSIDE

Hundreds stranded as countries close borders to stop spread of COVID-19. **B1**

SHELTER » PAGE 5

'VIRAL LOAD GOES UP AND DOWN'

'False negative' test results draw concern

Questions of accuracy could complicate efforts to control spread of virus

By Lisa M. Krieger
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For a month, Rick Wright's life has been in limbo. More than a dozen times, the Redwood City man has been tested for coronavirus — yet results swing back and forth, never assuring him that he is, or is not, harboring the virus.

"I'm sitting in a holding pattern," said Wright, who never felt sick after being evacuated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan last month but was quarantined at a San Francisco hospital for eight days and then at home, to protect his family and community.

"You're happy one day, then sad the next. You just want to be cleared and have your life back."

He's not alone in this mystery. As testing increases, so do reports of inconclusive test results.

In general, the test for COVID-19 is very reliable, especially in people with symptoms. But the specter of so-called "false negatives," of wrongly telling people they're free of the virus when they are actually infected, looms menacingly over the effort to detect and control the disease as quickly as possible.

Because the virus can be trans-

INSIDE

Olympians asking IOC for clarity about holding the Tokyo Games in July. **C1**

TEST » PAGE 5

STANDOFF OVER

Tesla's Fremont factory to go dark

On Monday, company will comply with shelter-in-place order

By Rex Crum and Joseph Geha
Staff writers

Tesla will suspend operations at its Fremont factory beginning Monday, the company said Thursday, ending a days-long standoff with local officials over whether the electric car maker could continue manufacturing under the Bay Area's shelter-in-place order.

Tesla said the decision to cease vehicle production in Fremont, where more than 10,000 Tesla employees normally work, came after days of talks with local, state and federal officials over what aspects of the electric carmaker's operations could remain open un-



A parking lot is full of cars at Tesla's Fremont factory on Wednesday. Many employees have continued to report to work.

der the order, which went into effect Tuesday and is scheduled to last at least until April 7, as part of a local effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

The order has effectively shut down almost all workplaces in the region, with exceptions for essential businesses such as health care, grocery stores and gas stations. But Tesla had con-

TESLA » PAGE 5

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